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Executive Registry

47-9759

15 NOV 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA : Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : CIA Support to DoD Counterterrorist
Capability

1. Action Requested: This is in response to your request for thoughts on what we can do to support DoD in their efforts to build a counterterrorism capability.

2. Background: In various recent policy and public forums, DoD representatives have stated that a quick reaction strike (Entebbe-type) capability is available from existing U.S. military resources. Theoretically speaking, this is

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NOT REFERRED - OSD On-file release instructions apply

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"whom do we support?" Currently, we are referring all DoD requests back to the JCS Focal Point Officers for validation and adjudication of priorities, but they are just as confused as we are. I also think there may be some legal issues. Whoever has the charter (or charters) should have full access to all applicable resources and expertise from the entire community. For example - CIA expertise in [redacted] probably is unique. Can we provide such training and other assistance to the FBI or other action forces that could be deployed in the United States?

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4. CIA Support: The new unit must prepare for a large variety of potential missions on virtually a worldwide basis and must be capable of maintaining secrecy (clandestinity) in deployment or until the target is engaged. On these assumptions, CIA can provide support within its resources which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. Intelligence: [redacted]

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7. Summary: Although the charter problem needs to be solved, it is clear that we have much to offer DoD. They in turn want and need our support. I expect that "Delta" Unit will at least have the highest DoD priority for that support. However, before going to the SCC or DoD at the policy level, I think we should let the dust settle and provide time for additional working level discussions on details.

William W. Wells

William W. Wells

cc: A/DDCI

DDO/CAS/SOG: [REDACTED] (11/15/77)

[REDACTED]



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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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Date: 18 Nov 77

TO: The Director

FROM:

SUBJECT: Support to DoD

REMARKS:

On 25 Oct. Secretary Brown mentioned the development of a DoD counterterrorist unit. You asked about how we could help.

DDO responds with some thoughts which reveal that we are already doing a lot within limits of our resources, but that there is a need for policy on who does what within the government, and, within DoD, which is going to be the primary anti-terrorist unit. We have considered able to offer from intel to specialized training and equipment. There may be some legal problems since we must decide who is to be responsible for anti-terrorism abroad and who domestically, and whether we can help both equally.

DDO concludes that we should let the dust settle before raising at a policy level, and continue to discuss details at the working level.

However, you may wish to highlight as a policy problem with ZB and or Secy. Brown, to try sort out the "who's -in-charge" question both domestically and abroad, and to advance some consideration of the legal question of whether or not we can help the domestic agent in same way we would plan to help the foreign one.

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